

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION  
FOR U.S. 17 WINDSOR BYPASS IN BERTIE COUNTY**

*Project Three Years Ahead of Schedule, Includes \$2 Million in Cost-Savings*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that construction has begun on the 9.5-mile U.S. 17 Windsor Bypass in Bertie County, a new four-lane freeway that will run north of Windsor from U.S. 13/17 to east of Davis Road (S.R. 1503). The project features innovations that have reduced design and construction time and trimmed overall project costs by about \$2 million.

“The Windsor Bypass is another example of the progress and commitment we are making to upgrade the U.S. 17 corridor,” said Easley. “We will continue to use innovative strategies to reduce construction time and save money while building this and other road projects in our state.”

The \$63.8 million bypass is being built using the design-build method, which allows project design and construction to be executed under a single contract. By using this new method, the bypass is scheduled to open in summer 2008, at least three years sooner than originally planned.

The project includes numerous features that have reduced total costs by about \$2 million, including the use of “top-down construction” to build the bridge over the Cashie River. Crews use each completed section of the bridge as a building platform for the next section. This eliminates the need for a temporary work bridge, saving time and reducing impacts to the environment.

In addition, this is the first project for which the contractor and subcontractors were solely responsible for preparing every design document and obtaining all permits necessary for construction. By turning this work over to the contractor, the pre-construction phase was cut in half from more than two years to just one year.

The N.C. Board of Transportation awarded the contract to Barnhill Contracting Co. of Tarboro in January 2005, at which time design and permit work began. As part of the project, intersections along the new and existing routes will be improved and six bridges, the longest of which spans 1,700 feet, will be built.

On Friday, Easley announced that design and environmental permitting work on the U.S. 17 Washington Bypass in Beaufort County will begin this month, at least four years ahead of schedule. He